

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0442

MOSCOW FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, CE, UNGA

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH B.J. FERNANDO, NEW PERMREP TO UN

1. AT A DINNER AT FORMER AMBASSADOR WEERASINGHE'S, NEW UN PERMREP FERNANDO DESCRIBED WITH SATISFACTION HIS TWO HOUR INTERROGATION BY A NEW MULTI-PARTY SELECTION COMMITTEE ANALOGOUS TO OUR CONFIRMATION HEARING. NEW DECLARATION OF ASSETS REQUIREMENTS HAVE DISCOURAGED SOME FROM ACCEPTING APPOINTIVE OFFICE. HE THOUGHT HE HAD HELPED A NUMBER OF MP'S UNDERSTAND BETTER THE ROLE OF PERMREP TO THE UN. HE STRESSED THE INCREASED IMPORTANC THE GSL WOULD BE ATTACHING TO THE ECONOMICS OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY WHILE NO LONGER WOULD THE FOREIGN SERVICE BE SPOKESMEN FOR "SOME VAGUE ENTITY" UP THERE (G-77) WHICH HAS LITTLE DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OR PEOPLE OF THE GSL. HE REITERATED HIS PERSONAL
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VIEW THAT GSL HAD MADE A MISTAKE WHEN IT BROKE WITH ISRAEL IN 1970, NO GAIN AND VISIBLE LOSS.

2. TOWARD THE END OF THE EVENING HE TOOK ME ASIDE AND WANTED TO BE SURE I APPRECIATED THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON LOS:

3. AS NEXT HEAD OF GSL DELEGATION TO LOS, HE WAS DETERMINED

TO WORK DILIGENTLY TOWARD AN AGREEMENT AT THIS SESSION.

4. HE SAW IMPORTANT SRI LANKA INTERESTS TO BE PROTECTED BY AN AGREEMENT.

5. HE BELIVES FROM SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK THAT MOST OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO ARE ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT.

6. ON AMERASINGHE, HE INDICATED THAT GSL WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF THE UN WOULD TAKE HIM ON SO THAT HE COULD PRESIDE AT UPCOMING AND HOPEFULLY FINAL LOS CONFERENCE. I INDICATED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WAS CONSTITUTIONALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE UN. TO MY QUESTION, MIGHT THE GSL APPOINT HIM AS AN ADVISOR OR MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION TO PERMIT CHAIRMANSHIP, HE REPLIED HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THIS A MOST NATURAL IDEA AND HOPED IT WOULD COME ABOUT BUT WAS NOT YET CERTAIN. EARLIER IN THE DINNER HE INDICATED AMERASINGHE HAD ASKED FOR LEAVE TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 18 WHICH EXPLAINS FERNANDO'S DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK IN MID-FEBRUARY INSTEAD OF MID-MARCH AS EARLIER ANNOUNCED.

7. HE HAD JUST READ ELLIOTT RICHARDSON'S SPEECH AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE U.S. POSITION AND WONDERED ALOUD WHY THE U.S. HAD ITSELF TAKEN A PUBLIC POSITION ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IT WOULD BE HARD TO STEP BACK FROM IN NEGOTIATIONS INSTEAD OF HAVING SOMEONE ELSE BE
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OUT IN FRONT ON BEHALF OF SUCH A FORMULATION. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT THERE HAD BEEN SO MUCH SLIPPAGE IN PAST SESSIONS, RICHARDSON HAD THOUGHT IT WELL TO LAY OUT A WELL-CONSIDERED POSITION THAT REPRESENTED THE SHARED INTERESTS OF BOTH CONTENDING GROUPS.

8. FERNANDO HOPED I WOULD EXPRESS TO RICHARDSON HIS READINESS TO DO ALL HE COULD TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE LEADING TO AGREEMENT.

9. COMMENT: HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO REASSURE ME THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF GSL'S DELEGATION TO THE LOS, THERE WOULD BE NO LESS AN INTEREST IN PUSHING TOWARD A MUTUALLY AGREED RESOLUTION. I DID NOT PRESS ON AMERASINGHE'S ROLE ON THE ASSUMPTION WALDHEIM'S REPRESENTATIVE HAD DONE HIS BEST AND WE WILL KNOW THE RESULT SHORTLY.
WRIGGINS

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